TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 18, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett, Councilmembers David McGowan, Randy Jernigan, Carolyn Dobbin, and Tim Brown.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator/Clerk Leighanna Worley, Deputy Clerk Emily Matthews, Finance Officer Sherry Hudson, and Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon.

ABSENT Mayor Phillip Wright and Councilmember Randy Jernigan

CONVOCATION: Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

INVOCATION: Town Administrator Leighanna Worley gave the invocation.

PLEDGE TO FLAG Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Pro-tem Triplett asked for the approval of the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Pro-tem Triplett asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Regular Town Council Meeting for September 20, 2021.

Regular Town Council Meeting- September 20, 2021:

A correction was made by Councilmember David McGowan. He stated that on page 5 paragraph 4 under the "Appointment of Donald Byrd to the Planning Board" there was a misspelled name.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2021 as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session Council Meeting- September 20, 2021:

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Closed Session Council Meeting for September 20, 2021.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to approve the Closed Session Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

1st OPEN FORUM Mayor Pro-tem Triplett opened the 1st Public Forum at 6:35pm.

Faye Wright of 725 Powhatan Road asked if the town owns the streetlights across from JD's Country Store on Wilson's Mills Road. She stated that the light is out, and it makes it hard for drivers to see at night. She said there is also a light on Harrison Road that seems to have been moved and it also makes it hard to see. Mrs. Wright also stated that she would like to see handicap parking signs go back up at Town Hall. Town Leighanna Administrator Worley stated that the signs will be placed when the traffic stops are placed, however handicap parking cannot be enforced unless the parking space is painted as a handicap space as well.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Pro-tem Triplett closed the 1st Open Forum at 6:39pm

REGULAR BUSINESS

MAYOR PHILLIP WRIGHT – Mayor and Events Report: Due to the absence of Mayor Wright, Mayor Pro-tem Triplett deferred to Events Coordinator Emily Matthews. Ms. Matthews stated that the Events Committee met last Tuesday and has decided to continue doing the Christmas Tree Parade in lieu of the Christmas parade and

Christmas Tree Parade

tree lighting. She said that applications will be sent out at the end of this month and the kickoff of the Christmas Tree Parade will be on December 3rd.

MAYOR PRO-TEM JC TRIPLETT – Sewer Report:

Discussion/Review of Draft Interlocal Agreement with Johnston County

Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon referenced the draft agreement in Council's packets and stated that it is just for the purpose of review and will not be voted on tonight. Town Administrator Worley stated that she and Attorney Du Sablon wanted feedback from the Council before reporting back to the County about a decision. Attorney Du Sablon said that the Town currently has an interlocal agreement with the County, but it is very limited and is based on the sewer that was put in in 2017 with the USDA loan. Attorney Du Sablon said that this agreement was presented to Council a few months ago but was put on hold due to other projects that came up. He also said that the County desires for the town to have its own water and sewer department and take over services. Attorney Du Sablon reviewed the following key terms of the agreement:

- County continues to own, operate, and maintain all County facilities for purposes of providing retail wastewater services and to provide for collection and treatment of such wastewater.
- County agrees to maintain any Town owned facilities (such as those subject to Prior Agreement) but also those acquired by Town pursuant to a future grant funded project or upsize agreement with developers.
- Agreement is limited to corporate limits or as expanded by annexation within existing Municipal Transition District (but not satellite annexations outside of MTD).
- County to review development submittals for proposed sewer facilities.
- Rates/fees for service as established by County.
- County to bear the cost of upsized facilities requested by County.
- Town agrees to be responsible for cost of upsized facilities requested by Town.
- Transfer of System: Town agrees (endeavors) to complete a CIP and sewer feasibility study w/in 12 months of ILA execution to evaluate Town potential takeover of sewer within town and creation of its own water/sewer department.
- Agreement is for a 20-year Term. Earlier termination by mutual consent or 12 months prior notice.

Councilmember McGowan expressed concerns about the County setting the rates and fees and asked if there is any way to make suggestions about changes to the agreement and its terms. Attorney Du Sablon said that he can look into how the terms can change based on the Council's suggestions. Attorney Du Sablon also stated that we are still in the negotiating stages of the agreement. Town Administrator Worley said that as long as the county is doing the billing and maintenance, they have the right to set the fees. She said that after a sewer feasibility study is conducted, the agreement can be amended to change that part of the agreement.

COUNCILMEMBER CAROLYN DOBBIN – Planning Report:

Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin said that there was a Planning Board meeting in September, and they discussed revising the Unified Development Ordinance as well as the Town Ordinances.

Appointment to In-Town Planning Board Member – Jim Uzzle

Councilmember Dobbin referenced Jim Uzzle's application for appointment to the Planning Board. She stated that the application has gone before the Planning Board and they unanimously voted to recommend to appoint Mr. Uzzle to the Planning Board

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to appoint Jim Uzzle to the Planning Board. Voting in favor of the motion were Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett, and Councilmembers Tim Brown and Carolyn Dobbin. Voting in opposition of the motion was Councilmember David McGowan. Motion carried 3 to 1.

COUNCILMEMBER DAVID McGOWAN – Police Department Report:

Councilmember McGowan deferred to Sergeant Matthew Peedin. Sergeant Peedin referenced the report in Council's packets and welcomed any questions from Council. Councilmember McGowan commended the officers on the number of traffic stops in September. He also said that he has spoken with residents in town and they have said they have seen officers riding in town and they appreciate their patrolling.

COUNCILMEMBER RANDY JERNIGAN – Public Works Department Report:

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett deferred to Public Works Supervisor Patrick Moore. Mr. Moore referenced the report in Council's packets and welcomed any questions. Councilmember McGowan asked for an update on the lawnmower. Mr. Moore said that he has contacted Musgraves Equipment several times and have not received any updates. He said that he plans to visit Musgraves tomorrow.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT – Sherry Hudson:

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett referenced the report on the financials for the month ending September 2021 in Council's packets and there were no questions.

Review of Financial Statements – September 2021:

Ms. Hudson said that she was in contact with the auditor last week and everything will be turned in for the annual audit on time.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Leighanna Worley:

Town Administrator Worley referenced the annexation agreement with Smithfield in Council's packets and stated that it was tabled from last month. She said that the agreement has not gone before Smithfield Town Council yet. Ms. Worley referenced the map in Council's packets and explained further the properties in question.

Discussion of Annexation Agreement with Town of Smithfield

Councilmember Tim Brown expressed concerns and said that he feels that some things are not adding up. Mayor Pro-tem Triplett said that he doesn't see the town moving forward with this. Councilmember McGowan said that he agrees with Councilmember Brown. Attorney Du Sablon stated that North Carolina General Statutes required a public hearing for this matter and so this cannot be completed tonight. Mayor Pro-tem Triplett stated that he feels that we should tell Smithfield that we are not interested at this time.

After further discussion it was the consensus of Council for Town Administrator Worley to report to the Town of Smithfield that Council is not interested in moving forward with this.

Schedule Board Interviews for Strategic Plan

Town Administrator Worley said that Lee Worsley of Triangle J Council of Governments has completed the staff interviews and the next step is to complete interviews with the members of the Council. She stated that she would like to get all interviews done in one day and each interview would take 45 minutes to an hour. She mentioned the possibility of interviews taking place on October 29th but said she would speak to members of Council individually about their schedules.

2nd OPEN FORUM:

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett opened the 2nd Public Forum at 7:26pm.

Jim Uzzle of 138C Uzzle Industrial Drive expressed concerns about the possible interlocal agreement with the county and said that the Town is currently in a 40-year agreement with the County. He stated that he feels that the County should do a sewer feasibility study first. Mr. Uzzle also expressed concerns about the possible annexation with the Town of Smithfield.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Pro-tem Triplett closed the 2nd Open Forum at 7:29pm.

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to go into Closed Session at 7:29pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) "…acquisition of real property…" Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to come out of Closed Session at 8:28pm. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

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PHILLIP WRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:

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EMILY MATTHEWS
Deputy Clerk